Manual Scavenging

†2172. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the evil practice of manual scavenging has been completely abolished by March, 2009;

(b) whether these people have been included in other developmental schemes; and

(c) the names of primary schemes in which these people have direct participation?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the Government of India implements the "Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)". The Scheme which started in January, 2007, aims at rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupation by providing them training and loan at concessional rates of interest for starting their self employment ventures. Capital subsidy of upto Rs. 20,000/- is also provided to them. In addition, all Safai Karmacharis, including manual scavengers and their dependents, are also eligible under the schemes of self employment and training of the National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation.

Urban poverty and deprivation

2173. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that with globalization of economy urbanization has increased in India and so has the poverty and deprivation in all urban areas;

(b) whether Government has analysed this trend and also the factors like migration of labour, their working conditions in urban areas;

(c) if so, the details and action taken in this regard;

(d) whether Government has analysed the gender dimensions of urban poverty; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and schemes/financial help provided to women?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Planning Commission estimates of urban poor for the years 1993-1994 and 2004-2005, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the absolute number of urban poor has increased from 76.34 million to 80.80 million during this period whereas the absolute number of rural poor has decreased from 244.03 million to 220.92 million.

(b) and (c) The Report on Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganized Sector by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) brought out in August, 2007, has deeply analyzed the trends of economy and its effect

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.